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February 21, 2013

Via Federal Express

Teresa Marks, Director
Mike Bates, Chief, Air Division
Thomas Rheaume, Branch Manager, Permits Branch
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Re: **Big River Steel LLC – Proposed Industrial Steel Plant**
Mississippi County, Arkansas
Air Permit Application 2305-AOP-RO

Dear Ms. Marks, Mr. Bates and Mr. Rheaume:

This firm represents an organization that wishes to express its concern over the permitting of a large industrial steel mill proposed by Big River Steel LLC to be constructed on the banks of the Mississippi River in Mississippi County, Arkansas (Permit No. 2305-AOP-RO). My client has made some preliminary inquiries and Freedom of Information Act requests that have raised serious concerns about the permitting process and regulatory oversight being exercised by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (“ADEQ”) as it relates to the permitting and construction of this massive new pollution source.

In particular, my client is concerned with the proposed facility’s compliance with air quality standards for particulate pollution recently promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”) as part of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (“NAAQS”) for Particulate Matter (40 CFR Part 50, et al.), and any attempts that may be made by Big River Steel to circumvent these standards. It is imperative that Big River Steel engage in all necessary pre-construction monitoring for this proposed facility, and fully comply with the important new health standards USEPA has put in place to limit the emission of fine particles. As the extensive body of scientific evidence compiled by USEPA in connection with this important strengthening of the nation’s air quality standards demonstrates, long and short term exposure to fine particle

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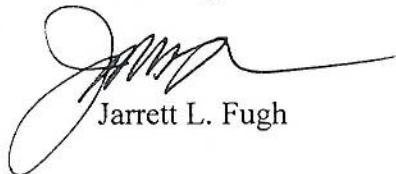
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pollution causes premature death, heart attacks, strokes, asthma attacks and myriad other adverse human health effects. Given the close proximity of this project to a local coal fired power plant and the collective negative impact this additional facility could have on air quality and public health in the Osceola, Mississippi region, these vital standards and requirements must not be waived or circumvented. The air quality in this area must not be degraded further and all proper due process must be strictly followed.

To this end, my client intends to request full public hearings on ADEQ's permitting of this project and will be submitting comments on the Application for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Air Permit (submitted January 28, 2013 by Big River Steel LLC's consultant, ARCADIS), including, *inter alia*, on ARCADIS' conclusions as to compliance with the NAAQS, BACT determinations, air modeling results and more generally on how the permit process has adhered to the applicable laws and regulations. Given the significant risk this project poses to human health and welfare, my client is willing to go on record that they will take advantage of every opportunity to object to deficiencies in Big River Steel's permit application as it progresses through the permitting process and intends to vigorously pursue its right to ensure that all applicable laws, regulations, standards and rules are followed and strictly adhered to.

Please make all efforts to protect the public health and the quality of the air that we all must breath. It is your responsibility to do so and it is my client's intent to hold you accountable for the faithful execution of that trust.

Sincerely,



Jarrett L. Fugh

JLF:dg

cc: ✓ Ron Curry, Region 6 Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

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